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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1191
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 4708
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0110
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0071
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0331
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHLMC/MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORP WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEAHLG/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 MANAGUA 002044

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN FEELEY AND LERSTEN
DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/FO AND CA/OCs
DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USAID/W, USAID/DCHA AND USAID/OFDA
USAID/W FOR A/AID HFORE
USAID/OFDA FOR KLUU, AFERRERA, ACONVERY, RTHAYER, AND
SBISWAS
USAID/DCHA FOR MHESS AND GGOTTLIEB
SOUTHCOM PLEASE PASS TO JTF-BRAVO
SOUTHCOM FOR SCJ3--LTC ALEXANDER
NSC FOR ALVARADO AND TSHORTLEY
SAN JOSE FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR
GENEVA FOR NKYLOH
USUN ROME FOR RNEWBERG
USUN FOR TMALY
BRUSSELS FOR PLERNER
ROME PLEASE PASS TO USUN ROME

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [FAID](#) [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [AEMR](#) [KPAQ](#) [CASC](#) [NU](#)

SUBJECT: MANAGUA SITREP 3: HURRICANE FELIX USG RELIEF
RESPONSE UNDERWAY

REF: A. MANAGUA 2032

[1B](#). MANAGUA 2026 (NOTAL)

[1C](#). MANAGUA 2025 (NOTAL)

[11](#). (SBU) SUMMARY. We continued our field assessments today. The hardest hit area seems to be a triangular-shaped area (Puerto Cabezas-Sandy Bay-Rosita) where the devastation has been extreme. Sandy Bay and surrounding communities were virtually destroyed. Interior towns of Bonanza, Siuna and Rosita didn't show the signs of extensive damage that had been initially reported. Similarly, while the town of Waspam and most of the communities along the Rio Coco do show signs of flooding, there weren't the signs of extreme storm damage that had been reported immediately after the Hurricane. Today we received additional U.S. military assets in the form of a command element from Joint Task Force-Bravo and the USS Wasp, carrying six helicopters. The first USAID/OFDA charter flight arrived this evening and tomorrow we will begin our distribution activities to affected areas, beginning in Sandy Bay and surrounding communities. The government raised the death toll to 24 people. Public Affairs released a press statement indicating the U.S. assistance totals more than USD 403,000, not including DOD assets that are engaged in the relief effort. END SUMMARY.

CURRENT SITUATION

[12](#). (U) AFFECTED PERSONS: Today Nicaragua's Civil Defense Authority, the National System for Disaster Prevention Mitigation and Assistance (SINAPRED), raised the number of confirmed fatalities from 4 to 24 today. SINAPRED is now also reporting that the total number of people affected is 35,000; about 13,500 of which were evacuated prior to the storm.

[13](#). (SBU) AERIAL OBSERVATIONS: Today, a U.S. military officer flew over large portions of the Northern Atlantic Region in a C-12 and provided the below observations about various areas in the RAAN. It appears that the greatest damage occurred in a westward-pointing, triangle-shaped area between Puerto Cabezas and Sandy Bay and along the east-west road towards the interior community of Rosita. Sandy Bay and coastal communities were demolished, as were interior towns along the Rosita-Puerto Cabezas road. (NOTE: These observations pertain primarily to visible signs of hurricane damage, and are not evaluations about economic or agricultural impact of the hurricane. END NOTE.)

--SANDY BAY AND ENVIRONS: Sandy Bay, where Felix made landfall, has suffered extreme damage, almost completely destroyed. The same was true for
--PUERTO CABEZAS AND WAWA: We have previously provided our assessments of damage in Cabezas. From the air, the town of Wawa, south of Cabezas,
--PUERTO CABEZAS-ROSITA ROAD: Evidence of the extreme destruction continued along the east-west dirt road between Puerto Cabezas and Rosita. Wh
--ROSITA-BONANZA-SIUNA: Like Rosita, the towns of Bonanza and Siuna and surrounding areas did not show dramatic, visible signs of storm damage.
--WASPAM AND THE RIO COCO AREA: The town of Waspam and communities along the Rio Coco--from San Carlos, through Waspam, towards Cabo Gracias a
--WASPAM-PUERTO CABEZAS: We have not yet done assessment flights along the north-south road below Waspam down to Santa Maria and Sisín. However

CONSULAR: DISCUSSIONS WITH EUROPEANS

[14](#). (SBU) ConGen met with consular representatives from 10 European embassies to exchange information on expatriate casualties and requests for assistance. All reported similar scenarios -- very small or no expatriate communities with those living in the affected areas desiring to remain in place to assist with relief efforts. ConGen provided a copy of our September 4 warden message which advised Amcits to defer non-essential travel to the region because of access problems and degraded infrastructure. The message also

warned about the potential spread of waterborne diseases, as well as life-threatening flash floods and mudslides that could occur well-inland many days after the hurricane's landfall.

USG PLANNING AND RESPONSE

15. (SBU) The Embassy Hurricane Working Group met this afternoon. We participated in one Washington-organized teleconference today. The JTF-Br

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY OUTREACH

16. (U) During a public event this morning, the Ambassador responded to media questions about U.S. assistance by pointing out our response has been "rapid and massive." Our press release today included his comments as well as catalogued the volume of assistance we have provided so far, including more than \$400,000 worth of cash and supplies and the arrival of an additional JTF-B helicopter, DAO Honduras C-12, and the USS Wasp with its six helicopters. We will be sending a press officer out to Puerto Cabezas to prepare for the Ambassador's projected trip there this weekend and to help manage the growing presence of local, U.S. and international media representatives in Puerto Cabezas seeking to cover the story. Coverage in local Nicaraguan media has been generally positive, including video of President Ortega speaking with Embassy military personnel in Puerto Cabezas upon his arrival there yesterday.

OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

17. (SBU) Since the disaster began, we have had regular discussions with diplomatic and international organization colleagues regarding relief assistance. SINAPRED has now taken control of the daily afternoon meeting between UN, EU and other (mostly European) diplomats to coordinate relief assistance. The UN has announced a flash appeal for \$1.3 million USD to cover urgent needs. Aside from a Honduran C-130 on Wednesday, there has been very little assistance flowing into the country. This afternoon President Ortega did greet a Venezuelan aircraft in Managua, which appeared to off-load a few boxes of relief supplies and a vehicle, perhaps an ambulance. A few Caribbean nations have also send supplies. It seems that most other potential donors that have been able to marshall donations, haven't yet been able to get those donations flowing.

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